

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:912
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
NON-AVAILABILITY OF PADDY SEED
Chaliha Shri Kirip

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that non-availability of paddy seeds made the situation worst for the farmers of the Assam State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Normally there is no shortage of paddy seeds in the State. Under abnormal situations like natural calamities i.e. floods during early and mid Kharif (Sali) season, the shortage of quality Sali seed is realized because the seeds available with farmers and other sources are already used up for raising seedlings which eventually gets damaged. Government, generally, under such situation takes steps to provide seeds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) programme.

Government of India, under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), released Rs.19.61 crores this year for agriculture inputs assistance including seed to small and marginal farmers affected by flood. Government of India also provided funds to the tune of Rs.50 lakh to Assam Seeds, Corporation for construction of seed storage godowns for storing seeds required for calamity situation. A revolving fund of Rs.26.94 lakh sanctioned by Government of India for the production of seeds to be kept in Seed Bank is used for procurement of seeds under the Seed Bank scheme to fulfill the demand of seeds in the calamity situations. Government of India has also released Rs.20.41 lakh this year to Assam Seeds Corporation for maintenance of the Seed Bank.